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THE DESIGNS OF

FRANCE

AGAINST

England and Holland

Discovered: Or, the Intrigues of that Crown, for the
utter Ruine of both those Nations, laid open.

WITH ALLOWANCE.

ADVERTISEMENT to the READER.

THESE Papers (which were intended to be publish'd before this time, had the *Press* been open for such Truths) plainly discover the cunning *Intrigues*, Wicked *Designs*, and Unchristian *Practices* of the *French King*, for the Overthrow of *England* and *Holland*, and with them the *Protestant Religion*. If this Account be (as 'tis hoped) approved of, a further Information may be expected from the same Hand.

A Discovery of the Designs of France against England.

HENRY VIII. King of *England*, did, in his time, cause a Medal to be stamp'd with a Hand stretch'd out of a Cloud, holding a Balance in equal poise, whereof both the Scales represented *Spain* and *France*, with this Motto, *Cui adhaereo praest*, My Alliance weighs it down. It seems that Prince well knew his own Might; whereas now *England* may be compared to an Ox, who being insensible of his own strength, quietly submits himself to the Yoke. Evident it is, That *England* has many Advantages beyond other Kingdoms, but especially

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this, that being an Island, it can easily secure it self against any Foreign Force ; they that intend an Invasion against it, must be obliged to cross the Seas, and struggle with the Winds and Waves, and all the hazards and dangers of that unstable Element, besides a very potent Fleet, which alone is sufficient to deter their hardiest Enemy, from any such Design. Now this being so, 'tis manifest that the King of *England* (having Peace and a strict Alliance with *Holland*) can over-balance the Party he designs against.

This is a Truth, *France* is so fully convinc'd of, that notwithstanding the great Antipathy there is between both Nations, he has hitherto spar'd nothing, and is still turning every stone, to take off *England* from its true Interest, and to engage it on his side, or at least oblige it to stand Neuter, and to be an idle, unconcern'd Spectator of the horrid Tragedy the *French* King acts upon the Theatre of *Europe*, because he well knows that *England* is better able to prevent it, and spoil his Sport, than any other State or Kingdom whatsoever, and rescue *Europe* from the Universal Slavery he prepares for it.

Would the King of *England* only be pleas'd to open his Eyes, fast closed with the enchanted slumbers of the *French Dalilah*, to take a view of his own Strength and true Interest, he should soon find himself making another Figure amongst the Princes of *Europe*, than of late Years he hath done, and with ease mount that high degree of Power and Glory, of being the profest Umpire of the Universe, the Sovereign Mediator and Decider of Controversies, and the Giver of Peace to all *Europe*, which *France*, in a vain Bravado, pretends to, when indeed he is the sole Troubler of it.

To arrive at this transcendent pitch of Grandeur and Authority, two things only (which the King of *England* may do when he pleases) are requisite. The first is, That his Majesty do comport himself so, as to engage the Love of his People, and keep a right Understanding between him and his Parliament. And the second, That he enter into a strict Alliance with *Holland*, living in sincere Amity, perfect Union, and good Correspondence with them, in order to their common Defence and Security. The former of these is very easie, and the King will do it, as soon as he shall resolve to desire nothing of his Parliament, but what is agreeable with the Laws of the Realm, which by his Coronation Oath he is obliged to observe and maintain ; and the latter will be found to be of absolute necessity, as soon as the King of *England* shall please to stop his Ears to the false Suggestions of *France*, and stifle those Jealousies and Resentments which his Emisaries daily buzze into his Head ; there being nothing to fear for *England* from the *States*, whose desire is not to enlarge their Dominions (as *France* do's) by invading those of their Neighbors, but only to keep what God has given them, and to maintain their Subjects in the Liberty they now enjoy.

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This *France* so well knows, that he leaves no Stone unturn'd to prevent it, and continually sends forth some crafty turbulent Spirits, to sow the Seeds of Division and Misunderstanding between the *King* and his *Parliament*. Thus the Spirit of *France* was at work, to exasperate the *Episcopal* Party against the *Presbyterians*, and again the *Presbyterians*, and other *Nonconformists* against them, making them believe that the *Bishops* favoured *Popery*, and would not fail to prove Turn-coats, as soon as a favourable Opportunity should be offer'd them, and that the *King* did incline the same way, with a thousand like Suggestions, which so set the People against the *King*, and filled the *Parliament* with such Jealousies, that they often granted his then Majesty but very little of what he demanded, and gave him so much work at Home, that he had no leisure to consider what was done Abroad. It was *France* that first kindled the Civil Wars in the time of *Charles I.* which cost *England* so much Blood, the *French* Ambassador that was then at that Court, boasting at his Return from thence, *That he had kindled a Fire in England, which should not be quenched of a long time, and that the English for 20 Years to come, would not be in a condition to claim any thing of France.*

To the kindling of this Unhappy Flame, one Father *Joseph*, a *Capuchine* Fryar, did much contribute under-hand, by means of the *Papists*, especially those that were in the *Parliament's* Army. But now since the *King of England* has thought good to change his Religion, *France* also has alter'd his Battery, and turn'd all his great Guns against the *Church of England*, and so far are the minds of Men irritated against one another, that his *British* Majesty will not, this good while, be in a condition to look any where else but at Home, where he is like to meet with so many Crossings and Thwartings of the Designs he is carrying on, that he will find it a hard matter to break through them, and accomplish the thing he aims at, and so zealously affects. And whil'st these Heart-burnings continue between the *King* and his *People*, he will be forced continually to be upon his Guard, and to keep his Forces about him, and cast about his Thoughts how to raise a Fund to maintain them, and thereby give an opportunity to *France* to possess himself of the *Low-Countries*, and of *Spain* too, in case that *King* should chance to dye, which happy hour, *France*, with a great deal of Impatience, looks for.

As for the second point, *viz.* a League with the *United Provinces*, and a right understanding and good Correspondence between those two Governments, to oppose all Powers that would invade and trouble the Peace of Christendom, it is certain that the States for their parts would most gladly embrace the Proposal, if they saw any likelihood of engaging therein with safety, and being seconded upon occasion; of which indeed there is but little probability as long as affairs shall continue, in the condition wherein they are at present. This indeed is the thing, which of all others *France*, would be very loth to see, because the hearty Union

of these two Governments, would in all probability put a stop to the *French* Kings undertakings, overturn all his designs, and put him into an utter incapacity of attempting any thing against the Peace of *Nimeguen*, or the Truce with the Emperor. But *France* carries a watchful eye to prevent this Capital inconvenience, and that by an assiduous fomenting and cherishing feuds and animosities between those two Nations, and improving every occurrence to this purpose : of which we have a fresh instance in the business of *Bantam*, which had been long ago made up, but that *France* (who finds it best fishing in troubled waters) thinks it more for his Interest, that it should remain undertermin'd ; which is the very reason why it was never made an end of, but kept as a reserve for a quarrel upon occasion. That there can be nothing so evidently destructive of the *French* Designs as this Union between *England* and *Holland* is very apparent ; *England* can when it pleases overturn the projects of *France* against the *Spanish Netherlands* ; neither could that King ever have taken *Luxemburg*, if the late *King of England* had had the least inclination to oppose him in that attempt, but the *French* King so well knew to take him by the blind side, that he did not perceive the mischief, till the City was taken. It was a Capital Error for *England* to part with *Dunkirk* ; a place that open'd a passage for them to *France* and the *Low Countries* ; but it would make the matter much worse, if all those Countries should be fain to submit to the Tyranny of *Lewis the Great*, and he by this means should join *Newport* and *Ostend* to *Dunkirk* ; for then would *Flushing* follow by Consequence, and that King be put into a condition to dispute the Sovereignty of the Sea with his *British Majesty*, and destroy the Navigation and Commerce of this flourishing Kingdom. Having got thus far, he would proceed to an entire conquest of the *United Provinces*, which point being once gain'd by him, *England* would have but little reason to flatter it self with the hopes of a better Lot. Renowned Queen *Elizabeth* of happy Memory, was so sensible of what is here alledged, that she told *Monsieur de Sully*, the *French* Kings Ambassadour at her Majesties Court, that neither *France* nor *England*, nor any other Prince or State whatsoever, ought to lay any claim to the *Low Countries*, and that she would never suffer the King his Master to make the least attempt that way. Upon which *Monsieur de Sully* sent word to his Master *Henry the Fourth*, that notwithstanding the opposite sentiments of the Queen, his Majesty might by means of great forces, keep his friends within their own bounds, and possess himself of such Territories and Cities in the *Low Countries*, as should be necessary to joyn *France* and the *United Provinces* wholly and inseparably together : which was (said he) the only way to restore *France* to its Primitive Grandure and glory, and pitch it above the rest of *Christendome* ; for if by any means the Provinces of *Luxemburg*, *Juliers*, *Mark*, *Mons*, *Aix*, and *Cleves*, were once United to *France*, there was no doubt, but the rest of the Country would be forc'd to follow their example, be-
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ing deprived of all communication and correspondence with the rest of the world. Sure it is *France* has always inclin'd this way, since they have observed that they could not compass their design by *Italy*, as the *Romans* of old; which Conquest tho it be the interest of all Princes of *Europe* to prevent, as much as in them lies; yet it is evident that these two States who are nearer at hand, and can better do it, are the most of all concern'd to put a stop to the Progress of the *French* in the *Low Countries*, which would not fail to be attended with dismal consequences to them, as before mention'd. As for *Spain*, it is a Body deprived of the use of its Limbs, and to which nothing remains but that of its Tongue, viz. To pray and entreat its good Friends and Allies not to forsake it. But none can do more than *England*, towards the Preservation of the *Low Countries*; and if his *British Majesty* had not promised to stand still, *Luxemburg* would still be in the State wherein it was formerly, and a Bone for *France* to pick. The *French King* is so well aware of this, that he takes all the care he can to keep the *King of England* on his side, or at least to remain Neuter, in case he will not declare himself for him. To which purpose he spares nothing, neither Presents, Pensions, nor Arts, to keep all safe on that side. But alas, this Money and those Presents of *France* are like a Snake hid under Rose-leaves. This is a Smiling Lip, which hereafter will prove a deadly Sting. They are Iron Chains gilded o're to deceive the Eyes of those who now admires what hereafter they will have occasion to lament, if they do not betimes discover the Cheat of him who designs to enslave them. *England* subsists by ballancing the Crown of *France* and *Spain*, and keeping them in equal poise; wherefore it must needs be the Interest of that Kingdom by all means possible to prevent the *Low Countries* from becoming an occasion to the overweight of *France*, lest by this means it should be incapacitated to maintain the Balance of *Europe* for time to come. For if ever by ill Fortune the *French King* should make himself Master of all the 17 Provinces as 'tis his great Aim, and may easily be brought to pass if the States be not seconded, what condition will *England* then be in? *France* will be stronger than they at Sea and in the *Indies*, and consequently interrupt their Commerce and Navigation, by keeping a great Fleet abroad, especially in the Channel, so that nothing shall be able to stir out of the *English* Havens, but by their leave, and upon the least occasion the total Conquest of *England* must needs ensue, and that without Remedy, there being nobody in a condition to stave off their final Ruin.

Moreover the true Interest of *England* is to keep *France* low, as well to preserve the Dominion of the Sea, as to find a favourable occasion to recover those ancient Dominions the *French King* keeps from them, as are the Dukedoms of *Britany* and *Normandy*, *Poitou*, *Languedoc*, nay *France* it self; for of the Marriage of the King of *England* with *Margaret* Daughter to *Philip the Fair*, was
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born *Henry the Fifth King of England*, who had the same Right to *France* as the *Dauphin* has to *Spain*. The Three Sons of *King Philip the Fair*, viz. *Lewis Hutin*, *Philip the Tall*, and *Charles the Fair*, died all without Issue Male: And it was not till after this, when the King of *England* prosecuted his Right to the Kingdom of *France*, that the *Salick Law* was made, upon a Speech of the Bishop of *Beauvais*'s in the Assembly of the States, in which he endeavoured to make out from an allusion to that place of the Gospel, *The Lillies Spin not*; that the Crown of *France* ought not to fall to the Distaff. But that Law could not prescribe to time past, but only to that which was to come, and consequently could not invalidate the King of *England*'s Pretensions. After this, *Henry the Fifth* entering *France* with a powerful Army, and having defeated the *French* in several Battels, Married *Catharin* Daughter to *Charles the Sixth*; and in the Year 1441, it was concluded that *Henry* should be King of *France*. *Isabella* also who was Queen of *France*, and Mother to *Catharin* Queen of *England*, made her last Will in Favour of her Son in Law, declaring him therein the sole Heir of all her Estate and of the Crown, which encreases the just Pretensions, and strengthens the Rights of *England* to the Kingdom of *France*.

Had the *French* King but half the Pretensions to *England*, which the King of *England* has to *France*, the World would soon hear of nothing but *Manifesto's* to prove them just, as he calls all he does.

So that the King of *England* ought upon all occasions and in all respects to suspect *France*, and to beware of him as a most dangerous Enemy, who flatter'd and humour'd his late Majesty, only to lull him asleep, that he might play his game without being disturb'd or interrupted by him, who, whenever it shall please him to mind and be true to his own Interest, will undoubtedly carry the greatest stroke in the Affairs of *Europe*.

'Tis therefore no wonder that King *Lewis* the Fourteenth, spared nothing that might supply the Necessities or provide for the Pleasures of the late King *Charles* the Second, as *Monsieur Barillon*, and the Dutchess of *Portsmouth* can Witness. But I must tell you, that the *French* King considers no Body, whether Prince or private Person, any further than as they may be servicable to promote his own ends; Yea Vertue it self is not esteemed by him, except it go hand in hand with his Interest. Do but consider what account he made of the *Princes* and *Princesses* of *England* in *Cromwells* time; were they not obliged to leave *France*, and to seek for Entertainment elsewhere? And it is notorious that he never contributed any thing towards the late Kings Restoration, till it was past his skill to hinder it.

So that upon the whole, neither the Resentment of the Royal Family, nor the Interest of *England*, will allow of such strict Alliances with *France*, as might tie up the King of *England*'s hands, and make him an idle Spectator, whilst *Lewis* the

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Great makes himself Master of the *Low Countries*; but on the contrary he must always be ready to oppose any the least Attempt he shall make toward it, making use in the mean time of the Six Regiments he has in *Holland* (which the States will not deny him on that account) till he can send some other Troops over to *Flanders*. I am perswaded that those Six Regiments will be able to make Head against double the number of *Frenchmen*; and when *England* shall thus be pleased but to shew its Teeth, all *Europe* will thereby be safe. *Resist the Devil, and he will fly from you; but if you fear him, he will make you his Slaves.* *France* has cut out work enough for King *James* the Second, and the business that he hath taken in hand is so great, that many people fear, and others hope, he'll never compass it. 'Tis not a time to alter old Laws, when the Enemy is at the Gates; 'tis not always seasonable for a King to act the *Missionary*, but much more requisite that he shew himself a brave Soldier and good Politician. All the World was in expectation of great things from his Majesty; his Courage put all *Europe* in hopes of an universal Relief, and some Respite for *Spain*, but how has he frustrated and befooled their Hopes, whilst his sole Study is to please the *Jesuits*, and to kindle a Fire in his own Kingdom, which probably he will never be able to quench when he would, as long as he dares not Convene a Free Parliament.

As *Spain* became depopulated by the departure of the *Moors*, so is *France* greatly weaken'd and impoverished by the *Dragoon Conversions*, and flight of the *Protestants*; and the *French King* would fain see *England* brought to the same pass. 'Tis a high Presumption to rob God of his Right, 'tis to him the Honour of Converting does belong, that work surpassing the Power and Activity of a Creature. So leaving that care to God, the King of *England* ought to lay out his Endeavours about preserving his Dominions from becoming a Prey to that Ambitious Prince, by obliging him to keep within his own bounds, and not to encroach upon his Neighbours Territories; and in so doing, the King will make good the Hopes and Expectation *Europe* had conceived of him.

The Designs of *France* against the *United Provinces*.

After the States of the *United Provinces* had by their Powerful Arms constrained *Spain* to acknowledge them a Free State, who owed Allegiance to none but God alone; they were for a time the Object of their Neighbours Admiration and Envy, every one endeavouring to Court and make Alliances with this growing State, which began to be lookt upon as the Umpire of *Europe*: But this high Reputation of theirs has suffer'd a notable Eclipse since the War of 1672, when *France* having brought them to the very brink of Destruction, pleas'd himself with the thoughts of seeing them tumble headlong

headlong into the Pit he had digged for them ; neither would he have been mistaken in his hopes, had not the people given a sudden and unlookt for turn to the face of Affairs, by declaring the *Prince of Orange Stadthouder* ; the Providence of Almighty God at the same time concurring with their Endeavours to preserve that small Spot of Ground, by confounding and daunting their Enemies, who after the taking of *Narden*, were struck with such a Panick Fear, that they ran away, none pursuing them. Now what contributed most to the Mischiefs they were involved in at that time, was, that besides the reasonable Correspondences which *France* held with some principal Members of that Government, they had neither any good Troops, nor a Commander in Chief ; and relying on the Peace and fair Promises of *France*, they were well nigh lull'd asleep by that fatal Melody, whilst that King was hard at work to undermine the Foundation of their dear bought Liberties and Government. We find in time of Peace the Soldiers grow Idle, as well as their Arms rusty. Ease pleaseth and flatters us, and Men are soon perswaded to lay aside the Exercise of Arms, to betake themselves to a more gainful way of Living ; so that when the Enemy approached, they are readier to embrace shame when joyned with Profit and Pleasure, than to strive for Glory surrounded with difficulties and dangers. *France* knew very well, that so long as the *United Provinces* had no *General*, that Soldiery could not be but in a very bad Condition, and incapable of defending them from the Attempts of a powerful Enemy ; wherefore he took special Care, by cunning Practices and false Suggestions (exasperating the Minds of the opposite Party) to prevent the *Prince of Orange's* being advanced to those places of Trust and Dignity *His Royal Highness* is now so deservedly possessed of. By this means the *States* grew daily weaker and weaker, their Troops were dissipated, their Fortifications neglected, their Strongest Holds went to decay, their Magazines were unfurnish'd, whilst *France* was raising Troops under hand, and making Secret Alliances with *England*, the *Electors of Cologne*, and *Bishop of Munster*, in order to their final Ruin. *Du Plessis* is much in the right, when he saith, *That a State is not to be judged strong or weak, but with relation to the strength or weakness of its Neighbours, and that it is upon that score that Wise Princes endeavour to keep themselves (as much as they can) in equal poise with their Neighbours, to the end, they continue in Peace and Amity together ; for as soon as this fails, all Peace and Good Correspondence are dissolv'd, as being only grounded upon a mutual fear or esteem for one another.* Which is so true, that a Prudent Prince is always jealous of the least advance or motion of his Neighbour, tho in a time of Truce or Peace, and is continually upon his Watch, endeavouring to be informed of his Designs before they be brought forth ; for by this means, he puts him by his Measures, and frustrates his Purposes. In which point many Princes and States, who are too saving, fail very oft, and this Covetousness

of theirs, costs them and their People very dear, by occasioning a most Expensive War, which at the first by Precaution might have been prevented with a small Matter. *France* is so well Informed of this Truth, that they neglect nothing in such Cases, and their *Ambassadors* in all the *Courts of Europe* are supplied with Moneys for that very purpose, who knowing they cannot please their Master better, than by Corrupting one or more of the Ministers of the Prince or State at whose Court they reside, are Day and Night contriving for it, and spare nothing to bring it about. Yea, when it happens that they cannot prevail with the Man himself they aim at, they endeavour to gain his Wife, or in case they chance to be so unhappy as to fail there also, they condescend to make their Application to some of their Children; nay, so humble are they, and such Slaves to their Master's Ambition, that they will not stick to bribe their Servants, and furnish them with Moneys proportionable to the Service they are able and willing to do them. These are the Maxims that speed their Designs wonderful well in such States as are governed by many Heads, as the *United Provinces*, which are a great Bar to the *French King* in his aim of Conquering the *Spanish Netherlands*, who very well knows, that being Master of the one, he cannot miss of the other. His great business therefore is, to lull the *States* of the *United Provinces* asleep with a Truce, which he will break when he pleases, being in hopes that their Forces will in the mean time be neglected, in laying out themselves wholly to propagate and encourage Trade and Navigation. For that King is well aware, that the *States* being awake and standing on their Guard, will never consent to his possessing himself of the *Spanish Netherlands*, at least they ought not to do it, since that it is the only Bar and Rampart which hinders *France* from overwhelming them, which they ought therefore by all means to endeavour to preserve whole and entire, as one would his Neighbours House from being set on Fire. What pains did not *Count d' Avaux* take to set one Province against the other, and to sow Divisions among the Cities of *Holland*, how bulie was he at *Amsterdam*? What Proffers or Promises did he spare to bring it about? Which is a thing so publickly known from that Ambassador's frequent Journeys to that great City, that the very Children were not ignorant of it. We must not imagine that *Mombas* was alone engag'd in his Treason against that State, but rather that he escaping into *France*, has left several behind him, that walk in the dark, and are not yet discovered. The best on't is, that *Count d' Avaux* begins now to be known, and his Insinuations not believed, he having but too long imposed upon the Credulity and good Nature of many, who now perceiving the Cheat, will scarcely suffer themselves to be decoy'd a second time. And as *France* was diligent to sow these Divisions and Jealousies amongst them at home, so was he no less Industrious in fomenting Differences between *England* and them, as knowing very well that

these Neighbouring Powers when joyn'd together, are able to give check to his Pride, and set bounds to his Ambition. How pleasing a sight is it to the *French King* to see them engag'd against each other, and pursuing his Interests at so vast an Expence of their own Blood and Treasure? The last War between those two States was some difference about Matters of Commerce, and whilst the *King of England* was Arming, the *French King* offer'd to engage in a Treaty with *Holland*, on purpose to amuse and divert them from putting themselves in a posture of Defence, as they soon after perceived; when *France* instead of concluding the Treaty, begun with them, declared himself for *England*; and whilst the latter Attacked them by Sea, he Invaded their Country with a Puissant Army; and supposing the Conquest of those Provinces indubitable, they had afore-hand divided them amongst themselves, *England* being to have for his share the Maritime Places, and *France* all the rest: *Amsterdam* only proved a Bone of Contention, and occasion'd some Difference between them, both the one and the other desiring it for his share: tho indeed they had no reason to be in a heat about it, seeing all this was but reckoning without their Host, God preserving it from falling into either of their Hands. Thus a Peace being at last concluded with *England*, the Spirit of *France* was at work again to with draw the States from their Allies, and finding that things were about to change face, and that the *Dutch* being rowled by a Discovery of the Artifices and Treachery of *France*, began to look about them, and their Troops having a good General at the Head of them, became considerable and formidable, he thought fit for a while to dismiss the *Lion* and act the *Fox*, restoring *Mastricht* unto them, in order to obtain the Peace of *Nimwegen*. Since which time, that King has contented himself to bark afar off, and was so apprehensive of the States raising the last 6000 Men, that *Count a' Arvaux* spar'd nothing to prevent it, and will do so still, as often as the States shall go about to Arm themselves, because that would stop the *Great Lewis* in the full Career of his Conquests, and make his Designs to prove abortive. I say again that it is the great Concern of *Holland*, not to suffer the *Spanish Netherlands* to be lost, except they desire at the same time to become a prey to the Usurper. For how easily will he find an occasion of quarrel with them; and if all else fail, he will make out his Pretensions and Right to those Provinces, for that they formerly belonged to *Mary of Burgundy*, *Philip the First*, *Charles the Fifth*, and afterwards to *Philip the Second*, who were without Contest the lawful Possessors thereof, and that afterwards rebelling, they obtained by force an acknowledgment of their being a free State. He will proffer to maintain them in all their Liberties and Priviledges; and the free Exercise of their Religion, in case they willingly submit to him; which if they should hearken to, he will by little and little clip their Franchises, and remove all Protestants from places of Trust, as he has done

at home, and if they yield not willingly, he will attack them with an armed hand, as he did in 1672, being sure the *Roman Catholick Princes* will not oppose him, because he has blinded their Eyes with the false pretence of Religion. But if the House of *Austria* be not aware sometimes of the Snares he lays for them under these specious Pretexts, they will find themselves deceiv'd when it is too late to recall their Inadvertency. To return to the *United Provinces*, I say, they ought, next to God, not to rely upon any thing so much as their own Forces, and having nothing so much to fear as *France*, they ought to provide and strengthen themselves against his Power chiefly, who has, for this great while, been plotting and contriving their final Overthrow, or, at least, the bringing of them so low, as to be forced to depend solely upon, and truckle under him. It has some time since been observ'd, that *France* has had a strong desire to make *Holland* listen to the Proposal and Treaty, which the *Wolf* in the *Fable* made with the *Sheep*, Put away from you (said the *Wolf* to those harmless Creatures) your *Shepherd* and *Dog*, and we will make an *Alliance*, and live in Love and Amity together. In like manner, says *Lewis the Great*, Dismiss your *General*, and Disband your *Old Troops*; for to what purpose these unnecessary Charges in a time of Peace; especially being so well assur'd of our Friendship, by the Truce I am engag'd in, and the word of a King, which you may safely rely on, that we will live in all Amity and good Correspondence with you. But what says the *Italian*, Trust not, if thou wouldst not be cheated. So that it is still safest for *Holland* to rely wholly on its own strength, and to have always a good Fleet at Sea, to serve for Convoy and Cruising, besides a Reserve in readiness to join with them in case of need. A good Navy may well be call'd the Right hand of that Government, being of great use in dispelling many Clouds and ill Designs which *France* hatcheth against his Neighbours. And if ever the *States* should come to a Resolution continually to keep in Pay a certain Number of Seamen, to be ready to be put aboard their Men of War at any time, this would produce a double good Effect. The first is, that the *States* would always have Men ready at hand upon occasion (without the Expence of Trouble and Time in raising them) who, by their continual Employment, would be trained up, and well used to the Sea, and Naval Conflicts. The second is, that by this means they would not fail to draw a great number of Seamen from the Neighbouring Coasts, continual Pay being no small Encouragement to Mariners, to betake themselves to the Service of those that offer it, but more especially the *States* Subjects in Foreign Service, would not fail to return to their own Country, to enjoy the benefit of being maintain'd all the year round. To effect which, the *States* need only to publish a *Placet*, strictly enjoining all Seamen, their Subjects, in Foreign Service to return home. True indeed it is, that the Navy of *France* will but be little the better for it; for I dare affirm, they can fit out very few Men of War, without putting some *Dutch* Mariners, especially Pilots aboard them, as trusting more to their Knowledge and Experience than their own, who are oft at a loss in a long Voyage. Which good and wholsom Resolution, when ever the *States* shall be pleased to take, you'll presently see the Spirit of *France* strangely exasperated and disturb'd, and his Ambassador running from one City to another to represent his Master's just Reasons against it. But 'tis hoped, that as the Count d'*Armen* has much laid open himself to an obvious discovery, by the small Effects his Promises have had hitherto, as not being season'd with the Salt of Truth and Honesty, (the main thing that keeps up the Credit and Reputation of a Minister in Foreign Countries) so he'll do nothing but catch cold. However I cannot deny but the *French King* is beholden to that *Great Minister* for his having inspired a Fondness for *France* into the minds of several of the *States* Subjects, which their Lordships have no reason to thank him for. Besides this, *France* receives no small service from the *Jesuits* and other Foreign Priests, residing in the *United Provinces*, who have Pensions allow'd them, to pry into, and engage the Inclinations of many there. These Spies are in the *Prince's Court*, where they have Friends that serve them on occasion, and have the Impudence to boast, That they are inform'd of the

very Secrets of the Cabinet. How many of this sort of Cattle are there in the States Troops and Garisons, who have their Correspondents at the *Hague*, where the General Office of Intelligence is kept, as being the Centre of that Government. This is a thing that ought to be more narrowly lookt to, these Spies being no other but the *Emissaries of France*, who is always restless, and spares nothing that may further his Designs. I remember that not long since a Ducatoon a week were proffer'd a Servant of a *Deputy of the State*, only to report what he heard from his Master, at Table, or in Conversation with others; but the Servant, with sharp words, rejected the Proffer, as became an honest Man.

This Instance shews, that *France* sets upon People every way, and that therefore one had need always to stand upon his Guard to avoid the Blow. I have also observ'd, that there are another sort of *perry Spies* that run up and down the chief Towns, especially the *Hague*, daily shifting their Ordinaries, except they find occasion to stay longer, and are in prospect of some advantage to be reap'd there of whom those who are oblig'd to frequent such Houses ought to beware. Others intrude themselves into Companies, or resort to the *Court*, and go to see the *Prince* and *Princess* at Dinner and Supper, to hear and see what is said or done there; and as soon as they have heard or seen any thing of concern, you see them run like Foot boys to the *French Ambassador's*, who, for a Reward, invites them to stay and eat with him, he now entertaining scarce any but such at his Table. I could name a dozen of them who, to my knowledge, are employ'd in this way, besides those that do it more secretly, and go to the Offering only at Night, and through the Stable door. Count *de Caravas*, one of these Spies of great Note, though (in my judgment) of as little use, was not so cautious, who coming from *Court*, would go into the *Ambassador's* at the Fore-door, in the middle of the day, to communicate to him his Collections. Two persons, whom I know to be *Jesuits*, tho' in the Garb of Officers, resort every day to the *Princes* Rising, Dinner and Supper, and continually attend the *Court*, where they have so many Friends, or at least so much cunning, as to be able to procure their *Catholic Friends* some Employment who are all *Emissaries of France*, and wholly devoted to the service of that King. Others have put themselves to serve even in the Kitchen, where such sort of Cattle are very dangerous. Therefore I conclude, that both the *States* and *Prince of Orange*, ought in all Respects, and at all Times, to be very cautious of the wicked and unchristian Maxims and Designs of *France*, the King himself being a false and perjur'd person, who, under pretence of establishing the *Roman Catholic Religion* everywhere, (tho' by his wicked Life and breach of Faith he denies all Religion) has no other aim, but to extend his Dominion to the uttermost Bounds of *Europe*, and to that end destroy first all the *Protestant Princes*, and then the *Roman Catholic* too, that so he may cause himself to be proclaimed, not the *Emperor of the Romans* only, but of all *Europe*; and certain it is, that nothing can serve him as a Bridge to the *Universal Monarchy* but *Holland*, which from his *Versailles* he looks upon with a most envious Eye. So that the *States* and People of those Provinces have great reason to mind the advice of our Saviour to the *Jews*, *Watch, for you know not what hour the Thief will come.* To which I add, *Be ready therefore to oppose him when he shall come to break into the House, and usurp his Neighbours Territories: and be sure to look upon France as a sworn Enemy to Republicks, and the Plague and Scourge of all that will not yield their Liberties up to him.* True it is, he fears the *States*, more than he loves them, care therefore must be taken to be always in such a condition as may still keep him so, and to make him know himself, when ever he shall so far forget himself as to meddle with what he has nothing to do. All the Remonstrances made by Count *d'Avaux*, as soon as he sees the *States* putting themselves into a posture of Defence, must not be minded, as being merely upon design; for we may be sure that Minister would not make them, were it not for the promoting of his Masters Interests.

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